Sale of Children in Famine Stricken Areas

1972. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain drought and famine affected areas in the country, particularly Orissa, have come to such a pass that the parents have sold their children due to starvation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made by Government to assess the famine conditions in these areas, resulting in such a situation; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government in the famine stricken areas in the country, to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No such report has been received from any State including Orissa.

(c) No enquiry has been conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(d) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), food-grains have been allocated free of cost for Food for Work Programme (FFWP).

Impact of Increased Production and Import of Cotton

1973. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of cotton growers in various part of the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu as a result of increased domestic production and the massive imports of cotton;

(b) whether the affected States have brought this plight of farmers to the notice of Government; if so, whether Government would restrict imports of cotton;

(c) if not, the quantum of loss the cotton growers and procurement agencies are likely to suffer; and